



Alaska State Legislature

US Department of Energy
Representative Peggy Wilson
Putting Alaska's Families First

SEP 04 2013

Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Brian Mills – Director, Permitting and Siting
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

US Department of Energy

SEP 04 2013
Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability

RE: OE Docket No. PP-387

August 21, 2013

Dear Mr. Mills

As the Representative for Alaska District 33, it is my role to ensure that our region has an economy that is supported by adequate resources for job growth through economic development. I am writing in support of Alaska Power & Telephone's (Soule Hydro, LLC) Soule Hydropower project located near Hyder, Alaska.

The Soule project will not only provide affordable, clean and renewable energy from Southeast Alaska as an alternative to other energy sources which have higher operating costs, and/or produce higher levels of carbon dioxide emissions. It will also create a new energy export enterprise for an area that has very few jobs and limited opportunities for new industries. Southeast Alaska's vast hydro resources are just waiting to be expanded and utilized as a renewable source of clean energy.

Construction of this project has the potential of far-reaching and needed economic benefits within a variety of industry sectors, including: construction, marine, transportation, retail, and professional as well as the support service industries such as hotels, restaurants, catering etc. Additional jobs, benefits, and supply chain expenditures will occur through operation and maintenance of the clean energy project over its 50+ year lifespan. The Soule project will create a new, sustainable energy export industry and legacy jobs for Southeast Alaskans facing high unemployment. At present, 90% of SE Alaska is federally owned and the communities face high poverty and unemployment due to lack of a pro-active approach to sustainable & renewable resource development. This project will *help* to bring back a robust economy to our remote region.

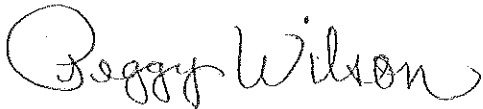
Hydroelectricity is one of the most affordable clean energy sources available to the US and Southeast Alaska has a proven track record of these projects stretching back over 100 years. As an added benefit, hydropower provides predictable pricing which is not tied to market volatility associated with commodities such as natural gas, petroleum products, and coal. Southeast Alaska hydro projects such as Soule epitomize the type of domestically available renewable energy solutions called for in recent Presidential directives and policy statements.

The Soule hydropower project is one example of renewable energy projects available within the Tongass National Forest which can be developed for export to the continental grid. Such projects can provide residents of North America with an affordable domestic alternative to fossil fuel-based generation, while also creating new jobs and a new renewable energy export industry for residents of Southeast Alaska – an area of the nation which suffers from significant socioeconomic disparity.

I fully support this effort to create a new clean energy, export industry for Southeast Alaska, and urge federal officials to approve the Presidential permit allowing cross-border transmission of Alaska's clean, renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Representative Peggy Wilson
Alaska House District 33

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.

Cc: Soule Hydro, LLC
Jason Custer, AP&T